

~~20.~~ 20. (Amended) A locking apparatus for a surfboard comprising:

an adjustable loop formed of a flexible material for extending about a surfboard positioned between fins extending from the surfboard and a wide middle portion of the surfboard;

a lock for fixing the size of the adjustable loop;

a tether strap interconnected with the adjustable loop; and

a stopper interconnected with the tether strap;

whereby, the stopper is positionable within a car window and the window can be raised against the tether strap to retain the stopper within the vehicle to lock the surfboard to a car.

In the Specification, on page 5, please amend the second paragraph to read as follows:

As shown in FIGS. 1-3, the adjustable locking strap of the present invention, generally indicated at 10, includes a first loop 20 which can be a fixed size or can be adjustable in size. See FIG. 5 which shows loop 120 adjustable in size by means of a lock 150 extending through apertures in strap 130 and loop 120. Loop 20 can be positioned about one end of an elongated object such as a surfboard 9, and is sized to fit about an end of the object but is not large enough to slide over the central portion of the object. A first end of strap 30 is interconnected with the

AB loop 20 in any means known in the art, for example, by stitching 31 for securing the strap 30 to loop 20. The strap 30 may include a plurality of apertures 32 along the second end thereof.

AH In the Specification, on page 6, please amend the second paragraph to read as follows:

As shown in detail in **FIG. 4**, tether strap 60 can be positioned to extend within a vehicle 70 as defined by window 72 and frame 74. When the window 72 is closed the stopper 64 is retained within the vehicle 70 to effectively lock the locking strap 10 and the elongate object to the vehicle 70. The stopper 64 can be retained on the tether 60 by means of a rivet 66. Further, a storage bag 68 can be interconnected by strap 69 to the rivet 66 and to the tether 60. The storage bag can 68 be used for storing the adjustable locking strap 10 when not in use.

BS Please add the following new claim:

--22. The locking apparatus of claim 20 wherein the tether strap is formed of an excess length of the flexible material that forms the adjustable loop.--
